

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending, with claims 1, 8, and 17 being independent. No amendments has been made.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal (6,370,527) in view of Holt et al (6,601,061).

Claims 2, 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singhal (6,370,527) in view of Navin-Chadra et al (6,275,820).

This response first addresses the rejection with respect to claims 1, 3-8, 10-19 and 21-23 and then claims 2, 9 and 20.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-19 and 21-23

With respect to independent claim 1, 8 and 17 and their respective dependent claims 3-7, 10-16, 18-19, and 21-23. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites (with emphasis added) a method displaying web site search results obtained from searching multiple electronic information stores without distinguishing the particular electronic information stores in the display, the method includes receiving at least one search term and storing internal content at a web host. The web host compares the search term with first electronic information within a first electronic information store to determine whether matches exist. The first electronic information includes content that is provided by the web host and that is made accessible only to members of the web host. The search term is compared with second electronic information within a second electronic information store to determine whether matches exist. The second electronic information includes content that is provided by a source other than the web host and that is made accessible to both members of the web host and non-members. The method further includes displaying results based on the matches that are determined to exist with the first electronic information and the second electronic information, wherein the results are displayed in a single interface of results comprised of the matches that are determined to exist with the first electronic information and the second electronic information.

Paragraph 3, section a of the Office Action asserts that Holt discloses "the first electronic information that includes content that is provided by the web host and that is made accessible only to members of private companies, universities, government etc.". In support of this assertion, the Office Action refers to Abstract, column 3, line 54-column 4, line 65, column 5, lines 4-25 of Holt for this disclosure.

For reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the conclusion drawn by the Office Action from these cited sections, and submits that Holt fails to disclose or suggest "the first electronic information includes content that is provided by the web host and that is made accessible only to members of the web host", as cited in claim 1.

The sections of Hot that referenced by the Office Action are primarily dedicated to describing the special purpose search resources that are used to supplement searches done by general search engines. Holt does not describe distinguishing among classes of users, nor do Holt otherwise recognize any distinction between members and non-members, or content accessible thereto. In fact, Holt is silent with respect to the terms "member" and "nonmember", or other terms that relate to class or other distinctions between members and nonmembers. Consequently, Holt fails to distinguish among member-specific content and nonmember-specific content, and also fails to apply search terms against electronic information stores dedicated to each, as claimed by the Applicant.

Being more explicit, claim 1 recites two comparisons, a first comparison between the search term and a first electronic information store that includes internal content made accessible only to members of a web host, and a second comparison between the search term and a second electronic information store that includes content made accessible to both members and non-members of the web host. Having failed to recognize a distinction among members and nonmembers or content made accessible to either class of users, Holt necessarily fails to disclose the claimed comparisons of the search term against content that is designated as member-only content and content that is designated as generally available.

More particularly, Holt discloses a method for supplementing the results from a general purpose search engine (e.g., Yahoo, Excite, Alta Vista) with results made available from more obscure search engines. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 46-55 and col. 1, lines 24-46, describing obscure search engines offered by entities such as USPTO.gov, IBM.com, Harvard or MIT.

Holt does not determine whether a user who submits a query is a member, nor does Holt focus comparisons of a search dependent upon results of such a determination. Rather, Holt teaches formulation of a search strategy based solely on the profile of a destination search engine, irrespective of the search submitter's status as a member or non-member. It is for at least these reasons that Holt cannot be said to compare a search term against content that is designated as member-only content and content that is designated as generally available.

Notably, Holt uses the term "private" when describing the obscure search engines that are used to supplement the results otherwise produced by the general purpose search engines. However, this term is not used to infer discrimination among query-submitting users. Instead it is used to classify/distinguish search resources. See, e.g., col. 1, lines 26-46, which use the terms "private" and "special purpose" merely to distinguish privately-maintained and focused search engines such as those maintained by individual corporations, government and universities (e.g., USPTO.gov, MIT.edu) from search resources maintained publicly (e.g., Yahoo.com). See, e.g., col. 1, lines 24-30.

Singhal does not remedy the above noted deficiency of Holt, as clearly stated by the examiner, that "Singhal fails to explicitly teach the first electronic information including the internal content provided by the web host and being accessible only to members of the web host..." See, e.g., Office Action, Paragraph 3, section a. second paragraph. Therefore neither Singhal nor Holt, nor any proper combination of the two, discloses or properly suggests all of the limitations of independent claim1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection § 103(a) of claims1, 3-8, 10-19 and 21-23.

Similarly, based on the above reasons, independent claim 8 also recites the feature of "a first electronic information store maintained by the web host and being made accessible only to members of the web host", and therefore should be in allowable form.

Further, independent claim 17 recites "the first electronic information includes the internal content provided by the web host and being made accessible only to members of the web host". Based the same reasons above, claim 17 should also be in allowable form.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, 17, along with their dependent claims 3-7, 10-16, 18-19, and 21-23 are allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claims 2, 9 and 20

With respect to claims 2, 9 and 20, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Singhal and Navin-Chandra, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest the features discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 17, upon which claims 1, 9 and 20 depend respectively. As noted above, Singhal fails to describe or suggest a first electronic information store maintained by the web host and being made accessible only to members of the web host, as recited in claim 1. Navin-Chandra fails to remedy the Singhal's shortcomings and, notably, is not relied upon in the Office Action to support the rejection of these features.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 2, 9 and 20.

Claims 21-23

In addition to the reason withheld above for the allowability of claim 21-23 based on its dependant upon claim 1, 8, and 17, the following is proposed to call the Examiner's attention to aspects of claim 21-23 that also are believed to distinguish Singhal and Holt. Specifically, for example, claim 21 recites "displaying results from the web host in a first section of the single interface of results; displaying results from the source other than the web host in a second section of the single interface of results, wherein the first section and the second section are physically distinct from each other". Claim 22 and 23 also recite the similar feature. None of the cited references disclose or suggest such feature.

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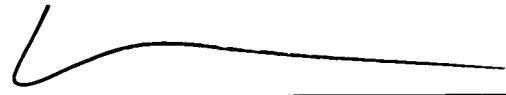
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